

CHAPTER 2

Malachi 2: [1] And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you. [2] If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart. [3] Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts; and one shall take you away with it.

1) God's Loving Reproof Vs 1-3

Malachi was the last OT prophet, prophesying after the Temple and Walls were rebuilt in Jerusalem. Malachi prophesied during the days of Nehemiah.

Malachi began by conveying God's Message of Love, "*I have loved you, saith the LORD.*" (Mal 1:2)

Malachi carried a burden to stand against the sins of the people, "*The burden of the word of the LORD.*" Malachi would prophesy or preach to the people.

Apostle Paul, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, warned young Timothy and all preachers to preach.

2 Tim 4:2

[2] Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

To reprove is to tell a fault or point out an error. It is for censorship.

In verse 1, Malachi says this commandment or this word is for the priests (the men of GOD) of Israel. Verse 7 tells us that the priest is "the messenger of the LORD of hosts". The priest should:

A. HEAR GOD

In verse 2, GOD admonishes the priests to Hear the Word of God.

Most men of GOD are so busy in service, they don't take time to hear the Word anymore.

B. HEART FOR GOD

GOD advises the priests to take this message to heart, needing a Heart for GOD to Repent.

C. HONOR GOD

GOD adjures the priest to Honor GOD and give GOD glory.

D. HORROR OF GOD

GOD administers a curse upon the priest that will not obey GOD.

If they will not serve GOD from their heart and give GOD glory; GOD will "curse your blessings".

HE will withhold HIS power from their lives.

There is a danger in dead religion.

Matthew 15: 8

[8] This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

In verse 3, GOD will punish the priests in closing the door of the priest's office to future generations.

1 Cor 11:31,32

[31] For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

[32] But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

As punishment, GOD will rub their noses in the refuse of the sacrifices.

Sacrificial animals had waste (dung) emptied out and it was to be burned outside the city.

Exodus 29:14

[14] But the flesh of the bullock, and his skin, and his dung, shalt thou burn with fire without the camp: it is a sin offering.

GOD would wipe refuse on their face to show what was really in their heart.

Then GOD would remove these priests like the dung of the sacrifices was burnt outside the city.

These priests are ultimately defiled and rejected by GOD.

2 Tim 2:21

[21] If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

If they would repent, GOD would forgive them and use them for HIS glory.

Malachi 2: [4] And ye shall know that I have sent this commandment unto you, that my covenant might be with Levi, saith the LORD of hosts. [5] My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name. [6] The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity. [7] For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

2) GOD's Loving Rebuke

Remember Paul, by the inspiration of the Spirit, warned young Timothy and all preachers to preach.

2 Tim 4:2

[2] Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

To rebuke is to show an error with the intent to correct. It is for correction.

A. GOD'S REMINDER 4-7

GOD reminds the priests that the tribe of Levi was chosen to serve as priests.

The tribe of Levi was given this office because they feared GOD and showed reverence to the LORD.

It was the tribe of Levi that stood with GOD when Moses asked who is on the LORD's side? **Ex 32:26**

It was the tribe of Levi that GOD had Moses to bless as Priests (Deut 33:8-11).

The tribe of Levi was selected to offer prayers and sacrifices for the people to God.

“The law of truth was in his mouth.” The tribe of Levi loved the Word of God.
The tribe of Levi showed great character as *“he walked with me is peace and equity.”*
The tribe of Levi taught the Word and turned *“many away from iniquity.”*
The tribe of Levi observed the Word and taught the people to be obedient to God.
The tribe of Levi counseled and the people *“should seek the law at his mouth.”*

Malachi 2: [8] But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts. [9] Therefore have I also made you contemptible and base before all the people, according as ye have not kept my ways, but have been partial in the law.

B. GOD’S REBUKE 8-9

In verse 8, GOD says the priests should have known the Word of God and feared the LORD.
Instead, the priests have departed.
Rather than teach the people the priests have caused the people to stumble.

Remember, in Nehemiah 13, Eliashib the High Priest had a better relationship with Tobiah than GOD.
We can’t be friends of the world and stand rightly related to GOD.

Since the priests have not kept GOD’s Word they will lose the abundant blessings of GOD and the ability to bless others.

Malachi 2: [10] Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?

1. Unfaithful to Their Friends 10

The statement *“every man against his brother”* tells us that there is no unity or brotherhood.
Although we have the same Father and the same Faith we destroy relationships with friends.
We deal treacherously. Treacherously is to betray trust and to be unfaithful to our commitments.
We profane covenants. To profane is to destroy value.

Malachi 2: [11] Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god. [12] The LORD will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto the LORD of hosts.

2. Unfaithful to Their Father 11,12

A. Marriage Regulations were Ignored

GOD had commanded the Jews not to marry foreign peoples or paganistic people.

Deut 7:3

[3] Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.

[4] For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.

Marriage is a sacred institution. Marriage is GOD's plan.
GOD performed the first marriage of Adam and Eve.

Hebrews 13:4

[4] Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

GOD has fixed it that proper marriage meets the needs of men, women and children.
But the priests disobeyed and broke GOD's law of marriage.

B. Marriage Relationships were Idolatrous

Remember Numbers 25, as Israel intermarried the Moabites GOD sent the curse of GOD to Israel.
1 Kings 16:29-33 King Ahab married the pagan Jezebel and Israel fell to the depths of idolatry.

1 Kings 11:1, 2

[1] But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites;

[2] Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.

Paul warned believers not to be unequally yoked.

2 Cor 6:14

[14] Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers

Friend mixed marriages are not about race but faith!

Think of Ruth, she was a Moabite. By faith, she repented, left Moab and served the LORD GOD.
She is in the lineage of Jesus, by her faith.

According to verse 12, GOD will severely punish all who break HIS law.

Malachi 2: [13] And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand. [14] Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. [15] And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. [16] For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.

3. Unfaithful to Their Families 13-16

The priest dealt treacherously with their wives. Treacherously is to betray trust or to be unfaithful. The wife of the priest was his companion which he made a covenant with before GOD. The priests were divorcing their Hebrew wives and remarrying heathen wives.

GOD had attended these marriages and had made them as one in marriages. Yet the priest thought it was okay to put his wife away for any reason and divorced her. GOD does allow divorce but only in particular circumstances.

Deut 24:1, 2

[1] When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house.

[2] And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.

God allows divorce for fornication and sexual immorality

Matt 19: 9

[9]Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

God allows divorce for unbelief (*1 Cor 7:10-16*). I would advise a person to separate for abuse.

In verse 16, GOD says he hates the putting away of divorce.

The ceremony of marriage involves the husband covering the wife with his garment.

This is a symbol of protection.

If the husband is abusive and mistreats the wife, he has covered his own garment with violence.

In his mistreatment of the wife, he has brought misery and destruction upon himself.

In verse 16, GOD warns to “*take heed to your spirit*”.

Back in verse 13, the mistreated wives were weeping upon the altar of GOD.

Then the priestly husband came and in his priestly service offered sacrifice to GOD on the same altar.

This was an offense to GOD.

Friend if you are a husband mistreating a wife, your prayer life is hindered.

1 Pet 3:7

[7] Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Malachi 2: [17] Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?

4. Unfaithful to Their Faith

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Malachi says “*ye have wearied the LORD with your words*”.

The priests complained and when they compared themselves to others they felt justified in their actions. Rather than live a life as a example and testify about the LORD, they complained and murmured. The priests complained that GOD is not a GOD of justice; “others practice these things and get by”. The priests complain that it is hard to serve GOD. NO IT IS NOT! Friend we ought to keep it simple. Let us Love GOD and Love people.